

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York
Supports Mediation Settlement Day - October 21, 2004**

Statement of Chief Judge Conrad B. Duberstein

On behalf of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York, we are pleased to lend our support to the fourth annual Mediation Settlement Day in New York on Thursday, October 21, 2004. We applaud the many bar associations, law schools, and other organizations in our District that have joined this worthy effort to raise awareness of the promise of mediation as a dispute resolution tool, including the Brooklyn Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, Brooklyn Law School and its Mediation and Securities Arbitration Clinics, the Queens Mediation Network, Safe Horizon's Brooklyn Mediation Center, and other organizations.

Mediation Settlement Day aims to raise awareness of parties involved in court cases, arbitrations, and other potentially litigated disputes of the benefits of settling disputes through mediation. This is especially important in bankruptcy cases, where the resources of the parties may be limited, and the interests of both debtors and creditors are well served by the prompt resolution of disputes. Our Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program uses mediation in appropriate circumstances to assist the parties and their counsel to resolve their disputes in ways as efficiently and effectively as possible.

We encourage all lawyers and parties who appear in our Court to consider mediation as a useful, efficient, and productive way to resolve their disputes. We also acknowledge and thank the many mediators on our Court's Mediation Register who serve in court-annexed mediations on both a compensated and *pro bono* basis. Their efforts are essential to the success of our Program.

Last year, our Court was proud to host the Honorary Chair, former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, in connection with her appearance in New York City and keynote address at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. We welcome the participation of Lenny Wilkens, Head Coach of the New York Knicks, as this year's Honorary Chair.

Information about our Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program and Mediation Register is available at our Web site, www.nyeb.uscourts.gov/mediation.htm, and from our Chief Deputy Clerk Robert A. Gavin, Jr.

Hon. Conrad B. Duberstein, Chief Judge

August 25, 2004